

## Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 4469

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PINS, IT

SUBJECT: PERSISTING DIFFERENCES PROTRACT FOLLOW-UP CENTER-  
LEFT SUMMIT ON LAW AND ORDER

REF: ROME 3940, 3530

SUMMARY: THE FOLLOW-UP CENTER-LEFT SUMMIT HELD MARCH 26 TO CONSIDER THE SPECIFIC LAW AND ORDER PROPOSALS FORMULATED BY THE GOVERNMENT IS BEING PROTRACTED BY PERSISTING DIFFERENCES, PRIMARILY BETWEEN THE SOCIALISTS AND THEIR MAJORITY PARTNERS. A FURTHER SESSION IS SCHEDULED FOR MARCH 27. NEVERTHELESS, THE SOCIALISTS ARE STILL MORE INTERESTED IN HAVING REGIONAL ELECTIONS HELD ON TIME THAN HAVING A GOVERNMENT CRISIS INTER- VENE, AND ARE NOT LIKELY TO PUSH THEIR POSITION TO A RUP- TURE. A LABORIOUSLY COMPROMISED PACKAGE OF PROPOSALS REMAINS THE LIKELY OUTCOME. END SUMMARY.

1. THE FOLLOW-UP SUMMIT OF THE CENTER-LEFT PARTIES AND CER- TAIN GOI MINISTERS RESUMED MARCH 26 TO CONSIDER THE SPECIFIC PROPOSALS FORMULATED BY THE MINISTERS OF INTERIOR AND JUS- TICE. TWO LENGTHLY INCONCLUSIVE SESSIONS DISPELLED THE OP- TIMISM WITH WHICH LAST WEEK'S MEETING HAD CLOSED, AND RESULTED IN THE SCHEDULING OF ANOTHER MEETING FOR THE EVENING OF MARCH 27. PRIOR TO THIS SESSION TECHNICAL LEVEL REPRESENTATIVES OF  
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THE FOUR PARTIES ARE MEETING WITH THE MINISTERS OF INTERIOR

AND JUSTICE TO HAMMER OUT FURTHER COMPROMISES.

2. THE ONLY MEASURES ON WHICH ALL PARTIES ARE AGREED SO FAR ARE THOSE IMPROVING THE ECONOMIC STATUS OF THE POLICE. WHILE ONLY THE REPUBLICANS APPEAR TO BE FOUR SQUARE BEHIND ALL THE GOVERNMENT MEASURES AS DRAFTED, THE MOST SERIOUS AND MOST NUMEROUS OBJECTIONS BY FAR WERE RAISED BY THE SOCIALISTS WHOSE EXPERT ON THE SUBJECT DECLARED THAT ONE CAN NOT ENTER A MEETING TO FORMULATE LAWS AGAINST CRIME AND END UP WITH LAWS WHICH LIMIT THE LIBERTY OF CITIZENS.

3. ON THE THORNY ISSUE OF UNIONIZATION OF THE POLICE, THE SOCIALISTS ARE ISOLATED AND NOW SUGGESTING THAT THE PROBLEM BE PUT ASIDE UNTIL A LATER TIME. OTHERS ARE INSISTING ON THE GOVERNMENT PROPOSED POLICE REORGANIZATION WHICH WOULD INCLUDE FOR THE MILITARIZED BRANCH A COMMITTEE ELECTED BY THE POLICE TO REPRESENT THEIR INTERESTS. THE CIVILIAN BRANCHES OF THE POLICE WOULD BE GIVEN THE SAME STATUS AS OTHER GOVERNMENT WORKERS.

4. COMMENT: AN INFORMAL COMMENT BY PSI CHAMBER GROUP LEADER MARIOTTI TO NEWSMEN THAT THE SOCIALISTS DO NOT WISH TO FALL INTO THE LAW AND ORDER ELECTORAL TRAP PREPARED FOR THEM BY THE DC AND PSDI INDICATES THE CONTINUING DILEMMA THIS SENSITIVE ISSUE HOLDS FOR THE PSI (REFTEL 3530). MOREOVER, CURRENT DAILY REVELATIONS CONCERNING A HIGHLY ORGANIZED TERRORIST ORGANIZATION OF THE LEFT, CENTERED IN NAPLES, ARE NOW WEAKENING EVEN FURTHER THE PSI'S CONTENTION THAT MOST, IF NOT ALL, POLITICAL VIOLENCE IS NEOFASCIST. FINALLY, THE SOCIALISTS REMAIN MORE CONCERNED ABOUT A GOVERNMENT CRISIS THAN GETTING THEIR WAY ON LAW AND ORDER, AND THIS MAKES THEIR CONTINUED RESOLVE EVEN MORE DIFFICULT. OF ALL PARTY LEADERS, PSI SECRETARY DEMARTINO WAS THE MOST CATEGORIC TO THE PRESS IN DISCOUNTING THE POSSIBILITY THAT THE SUMMIT WOULD LEAD TO A GOVERNMENT CRISIS. FOR ALL THESE REASONS THE SUMMIT IS LIKELY TO END WITH A LABORIOUS COMPROMISE OF DRAFT MEASURES, PERHAPS MORE HARD BOILED THAN THE SOCIALISTS WOULD HAVE LIKED, BUT LESS INCISIVE THAN WISHED BY THE GOVERNMENT AND REQUIRED BY THE CIRCUMSTANCES. BEAUDRY

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